

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn; currently amended) A process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids in an organism comprising
 - (a) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid ~~with~~ comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16 which codes for a polypeptide with lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase activity; or
 - (b) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid ~~with~~ comprising a nucleic acid sequence having at least 95% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16, wherein the nucleic acid codes for a polypeptide with lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase activity, or
 - (c) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid which codes for a polypeptide ~~with~~ comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 17 or comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity with SEQ ID NO: 17 and has lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase activity, and
 - (d) culturing and harvesting the organism.
2. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein, additionally to the nucleic acid sequence mentioned under (a) to (c), further nucleic acid sequences which code for polypeptides of the fatty acid metabolism or lipid metabolism selected from the group consisting of acyl-CoA dehydrogenase(s), acyl-ACP[= acyl carrier protein] desaturase(s), acyl-ACP thioesterase(s), fatty acid acyltransferase(s), acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase(s), fatty acid synthase(s), fatty acid hydroxylase(s), acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase(s), acyl-coenzyme A oxidase(s), fatty acid desaturase(s), fatty acid acetylenase(s), lipoxygenase(s), triacylglycerol lipase(s), allene oxide synthase(s), hydroperoxide lyase(s) and fatty acid elongase(s) were introduced into the organism.
3. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein, additionally to the nucleic acid sequences mentioned under (a) to (c), further nucleic acid sequences which code for polypeptides selected from the group consisting of acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase, Δ -4-desaturase, Δ -5-desaturase, Δ -6-desaturase, Δ -8-

desaturase, Δ -9-desaturase, Δ -12-desaturase, Δ -5-elongase, Δ -6-elongase and Δ -9-elongase, were introduced into the organism.

4. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acids produced are C₁₈-, C₂₀-, C₂₂- or C₂₄-fatty acids.

5. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acids are isolated from the organism in the form of an oil, a lipid or a free fatty acid.

6. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein the polyunsaturated fatty acids produced in the process are C₁₈-, C₂₀-, C₂₂- or C₂₄-fatty acids with at least two double bonds in the molecule.

7. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein a polyunsaturated fatty acid selected from the group consisting of dihomo- γ -linolenic acid, arachidonic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid is produced in the process.

8. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein the organism is a microorganism, a nonhuman animal or a plant.

9. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein the organism is a transgenic plant.

10. (Withdrawn) The process for the production of polyunsaturated fatty acids according to claim 1, wherein the transgenic plant is an oil crop plant.

11. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16,

- (b) a nucleic acid sequence[[s]] having at least 95% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16 and coding for a polypeptide[[s]] having lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase activity,
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence[[s]] ~~which code for polypeptides with~~ encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 17, ~~or~~ and
- (d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17[[,]] and have having lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase activity.

12-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid sequence originates from a eukaryote.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) A gene construct comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 11, where the nucleic acid is linked functionally to one or more regulatory signals.

18. (Previously presented) The gene construct of claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid construct comprises an additional biosynthesis gene of the fatty acid metabolism or lipid metabolism selected from the group consisting of acyl-CoA dehydrogenase(s), acyl-ACP[= acyl carrier protein] desaturase(s), acyl-ACP thioesterase(s), fatty acid acyltransferase(s), acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase(s), fatty acid synthase(s), fatty acid hydroxylase(s), acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase(s), acyl-coenzyme A oxidase(s), fatty acid desaturase(s), fatty acid acetylenase(s), lipoxygenase(s), triacylglycerol lipase(s), allene oxide synthase(s), hydroperoxide lyase(s) and fatty acid elongase(s).

19. (Previously presented) The gene construct of claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid construct comprises an additional biosynthesis gene of the fatty acid metabolism or lipid

metabolism selected from the group consisting of acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase, Δ -4-desaturase, Δ -5-desaturase, Δ -6-desaturase, Δ -8-desaturase, Δ -9-desaturase, Δ -12-desaturase, Δ -5-elongase, Δ -6-elongase and Δ -9-elongase.

20. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 11 or a gene construct comprising said nucleic acid.

21. (Previously presented) A transgenic nonhuman organism comprising the nucleic acid of claim 11.

22. (Previously presented) The transgenic nonhuman organism of claim 21, wherein the organism is a microorganism, a nonhuman animal or a plant.

23. (Previously presented) The transgenic nonhuman organism of claim 21, wherein the organism is a plant.

24. (Withdrawn) An oil, a lipid or a fatty acid or a fraction of these, produced by the process according to claim 1.

25. (Withdrawn) An oil, a lipid or a fatty acid composition comprising polyunsaturated fatty acids prepared by the process of claim 1 and originating from transgenic plants.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) A transgenic nonhuman organism comprising the gene construct of claim 17.

28. (Previously presented) A transgenic nonhuman organism comprising the vector of claim 20.

29. (Withdrawn) A method of making feed, foodstuffs, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals comprising incorporating the polyunsaturated fatty acids prepared according to claim 1 in said feed, foodstuffs, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of making feed, foodstuffs, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals comprising incorporating the oil, lipid or fatty acid composition according to claim 25 in said feed, foodstuffs, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals.

31. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16 ~~and codes for a polypeptide having lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase activity.~~

32. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid sequence ~~codes for~~ encodes a polypeptide ~~comprises~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17 ~~and having lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferase activity.~~